

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for distributing information from a distributing device ~~(301)~~ to a receiving device ~~(302)~~, wherein each device has been assigned a respective level of information distribution authorization, the method being characterized in that:

a level of information distribution authorization is denoted by means of a class number; and in that the method comprises the steps ~~acts~~ of:

receiving at the distributing device the class number of the receiving device,

verifying ~~(401)~~ at the distributing device, when distribution of information is to be effected from the distributing device ~~(301)~~ to the receiving device ~~(302)~~, the class number of the receiving device ~~(302)~~; and

distributing ~~(404)~~ information from the distributing device ~~(301)~~ to the receiving device ~~(302)~~ if the receiving device ~~(302)~~ has a lower class number than the distributing device ~~(301)~~.

2. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the class number assigned to a device ~~(301, 302)~~ corresponds to ~~the~~ an ability to distribute information from said device to another device, a lower class number indicating a lower ability to distribute ~~(404)~~ information.

3. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least part of the information to be distributed ~~(404)~~ from the distributing device ~~(301)~~ to the receiving device ~~(302)~~ is encrypted such that said receiving device ~~(302)~~ is able to decrypt the encrypted information if the receiving device ~~(302)~~ has a lower class number than the distributing device ~~(301)~~.

4. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein a device ~~(301, 302)~~ must be assigned a digitally signed class number to qualify itself as an information distributor and receiver.

5. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the devices ~~(301, 302)~~ are arranged in a home network ~~(100)~~.

6. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 5, wherein the class numbers are assigned to the devices ~~(301, 302)~~ by a home network supervisor.

7. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the class numbers are assigned to the devices ~~(301, 302)~~ by a device manufacturer.

8. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein different sub devices contained in a device ~~(301, 302)~~ can be assigned different class numbers and wherein the class number of a given sub device that is a receiving sub device is received by the distributing device as the class number of the receiving device.

9. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the information to be distributed from a distributing device ~~(301)~~ to a receiving device ~~(302)~~ is provided with a watermarked class number, the watermarked class number specifying the highest class number that the receiving device ~~(302)~~ can have and still be allowed to receive the information.

10. (Currently amended) A system ~~(300)~~ for distributing information from a distributing device ~~(301)~~ to a receiving device ~~(302)~~, wherein each device ~~(301, 302)~~ has been assigned a respective level of information distribution authorization, the system ~~(300)~~ being characterized in that:

each device ~~(301, 302)~~ is arranged with a class number;

the distributing device ~~(301)~~ is arranged with means ~~(202, 203)~~ for receiving the class number of the receiving device and verifying, when distribution of information is to be effected from the distributing device ~~(301)~~ to the receiving device ~~(302)~~, the class number of the receiving device ~~(302)~~; and

the distributing device ~~(301)~~ is arranged with means ~~(202)~~ for distributing information to the receiving device ~~(302)~~ if the receiving device ~~(302)~~ has a lower class number than the distributing device ~~(301)~~.

11. (Currently amended) The system ~~(300)~~ according to claim 10, wherein the class number assigned to a device ~~(301, 302)~~ moreover corresponds to ~~the~~ an ability to distribute information from said device to another device, a lower class number indicating a lower ability to distribute information.

12. (Currently amended) The system ~~(300)~~ according to claim 10, wherein the distributing device ~~(301)~~ is arranged to encrypt at least part of the information to be distributed from the distributing device ~~(301)~~ to the receiving device ~~(302)~~ such that said receiving device ~~(302)~~ is able to decrypt the encrypted information, if the receiving device ~~(302)~~ has a lower class number than the distributing device ~~(301)~~.

13. (Currently amended) The system ~~(300)~~ according to claim 10, wherein a device ~~(301, 302)~~ is arranged with a digitally signed class number to qualify itself as an information distributor and receiver.

14. (Currently amended) The system ~~(300)~~ according to claim 10, wherein the devices ~~(301, 302)~~ are arranged in a home network ~~(100)~~.

15. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 14, wherein the class numbers are assigned to the devices ~~(301, 302)~~ by a home network supervisor.

16. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 10, wherein the class numbers are assigned to the devices ~~(301, 302)~~ by a device manufacturer.

17. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 10, wherein different sub devices contained in a device ~~(301, 302)~~ can be assigned different class numbers.

18. (Currently amended) The system according to claim 10, wherein the information to be distributed from a distributing device ~~(301)~~ to a receiving device ~~(302)~~ is provided with a watermarked class number, the watermarked class number specifying the highest class number that the receiving device ~~(302)~~ can have and still be allowed to receive the information.

19. (New) A distributing device configured to distribute information to a receiving device, the distributing device comprising:

a transceiver configured to receive a class number from a receiving device and to distribute information to the receiving

device; and

a processor operably coupled to the transceiver, wherein the processor is configured to:

receive the class number of the receiving device and compare, when distribution of information is to be effected from the distributing device to the receiving device, the class number of the receiving device to a class number of the distributing device; and

distribute information to the receiving device only based on if the receiving device has one of a lower or higher class number than the distributing device.

20. (New) The distributing device of claim 19, wherein the processor is configured to receive a class number from the information to be distributed, the information class number specifying the highest class number that the receiving device can have and still be allowed to receive the information.